



## Modelling and assessment of the storage of nutrients in a mixed green microalgae culture

**Bregua de la Sotilla, Marta; Wágner, Dorottya Sarolta; Valverde Perez, Borja; Van Wagenen, Jonathan; Angelidaki, Irini; Smets, Barth F.; Plósz, Benedek G.**

*Publication date:*  
2014

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

*Citation (APA):*  
Bregua de la Sotilla, M., Wágner, D. S., Valverde Perez, B., Van Wagenen, J., Angelidaki, I., Smets, B. F., & Plósz, B. G. (2014). *Modelling and assessment of the storage of nutrients in a mixed green microalgae culture*. Abstract from 2nd International Conference on Algal Biorefinery, Lyngby, Denmark.

---

### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

# Modelling and assessment of the storage of nutrients in a mixed green microalgae culture

Marta Bregua de la Sotilla, **Dorottya Sarolta Wágner\***, Borja Valverde-Pérez, Jonathan Van Wageningen, Irini Angelidaki, Barth F. Smets, Benedek Gy. Plósz\*

Department of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, Miljøvej, Building 113, DK-2800, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark, E-mails: s131537@student.dtu.dk, dosaw@env.dtu.dk, bvape@env.dtu.dk, jovw@env.dtu.dk, bfsm@env.dtu.dk, beep@env.dtu.dk, \*Corresponding authors

**Abstract** Particular scientific interest focuses on the development of cost-effective ways to recover resources, mainly nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), from the wastewater. The photobioreactor (PhBR) unit process operation can be used to cultivate microalgae as a means to recover nutrients and/or as a tertiary wastewater treatment process. Due to the uptake and storage of nutrients the cultivated microalgae can be further used in agriculture, i.e. as fertilizer. The objective of this study is to assess the uptake and storage of nutrients by a mixed green microalgal culture, isolated in an open wastewater pond. Laboratory-scale batch experiments were carried out in a 24-L open air-lift PhBR with constant light intensity ( $600 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  on the surface) and constant aeration mixed with  $\text{CO}_2$  (6%). According to microscopic observations, the mixed microalgal culture consists mainly of *Chlorella sp.* and *Scenedesmus sp.* and it was cultivated using the MWC+Se synthetic medium. The growth of algae biomass and the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous were monitored in the bulk liquid as well as inside the biomass. Five different initial nitrogen concentrations were assessed, while the amount of the other nutrients were kept constant. Dilutions were made in the end of each cycle to avoid self-shading of the biomass. The algal growth rate and the internal cell quota were assessed. An ASM-based biokinetic algae model, developed in a previous study by Wágner et al. (2014), was used to simulate and compare the measurement data. Data suggest (Figure 1) that the model simulations can effectively predict the uptake and storage of phosphorous. This was also the case for the nitrogen uptake and storage (data not shown).

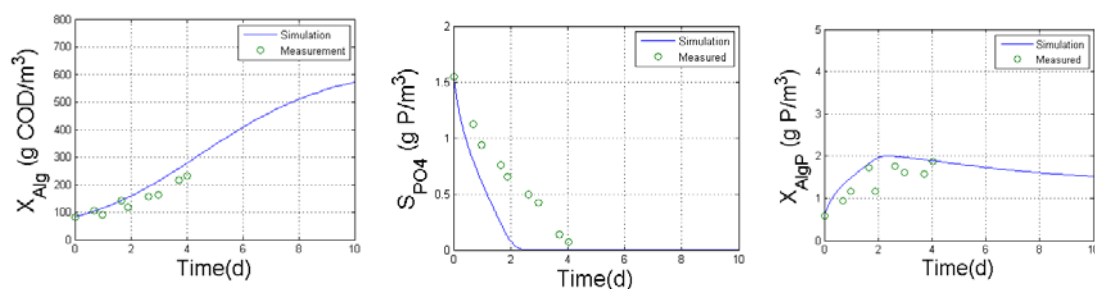


Figure 1: The growth, phosphorous uptake and internal phosphorous cell quota of the green mixed microalgae. The initial concentration of total phosphorous in the bulk liquid was 1.55  $\text{mg PO}_4\text{-P /l}$ . Not all data is shown here.

## Reference

Wágner D S, Valverde-Pérez B, Sæbø M, Van Wageningen J, Angelidaki I, Smets B F, Plósz B Gy. (2014). An activated sludge modeling framework for micro-algal growth in photobioreactors (ASM-A). *In preparation*.